

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 20, 2010

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Patricia G. Arcuri, Acting Regional Administrator
FEMA Region III
615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4404

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our shared support for the State of Maryland's request for the declaration of a major disaster for the State of Maryland as a result of a severe winter snowstorm which impacted our State December 18, 2009 through December 20, 2009. Given the massive impact that this storm had on the state's resources, we respectfully request that you approve the provision of supplementary Federal assistance.

Maryland suffered blizzard conditions throughout the storm, overwhelming the State's capabilities to deal with its aftermath. Governor O'Malley took appropriate action under Maryland law, directing the execution of the State CORE Emergency Operations Plan. The Governor further declared that a State of Emergency existed within the entire state from December 19, 2009 until December 21, 2009. On December 21, 2009, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), along with applicable jurisdictions and state agencies began assessing the impact of the storm on our State and found that there was an "unprecedented" use of public resources to ensure the safety of the public, along with damage to emergency vehicles and state buildings, and depletion of road treatment chemicals. With severe winter weather beginning in our state as early as October, the ability of our State to respond with supplies, resources, and staff has been badly hampered.

Maryland has made extensive efforts to respond to this emergency. Governor O'Malley has estimated the total cost to exceed \$19 million. An expedited declaration of a disaster is necessary to help provide the resources needed by our State. We appreciate your consideration of Maryland's request.


Sincerely,



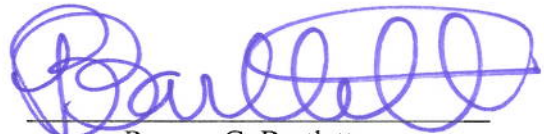
Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Roscoe G. Bartlett
Member of Congress



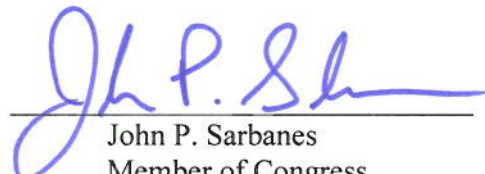
Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



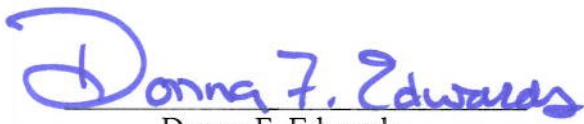
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



Frank Kratovil
Member of Congress